RADIOGRAPHIC ATLAS OF SKELETAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE HAND AND WRIST—Second Edition— William Walter Greulich, Professor of Anatomy, Stanford University School of Medicine; and S. Idell Pyle, Research Associate, Departments of Anatomy, Western Reserve University and Stanford University Schools of Medicine. Stanford University Press, Stanford, California, 1959. 256 pages, $15.00.

"In our opinion, the x-ray study of the hand and wrist is the most useful single procedure that is at present available for determining the developmental status of children." So the authors stated in the first edition of this book, and so, with even more authority, they maintain in the second. In the nine-year interval, the book has been extensively used and critically tested. The revisions take cognizance of this intervening experince.

Between the two editions, nothing has changed in the genetically determined character and sequence of developmental progress in the bones of the hands and wrist. Indeed, the authors are now able to indicate, with the help of the radiograph of a hand dated circa 1500 B.C., that there has been no significant change in developmental pattern in the last 3000 years! Nor are there variations between racial patterns. The differences between the two editions depend, therefore, on improvements in, and additions to, the presentation of the material, rather than on changes in the basic data. Although even here there is one surprise! Three familiar old bones have acquired new names: the navicular, greater multangular and lesser multangular have become, respectively, the scaphoid, trapezium and trapezoid.

In their preface, the authors call attention to some of the new features: Improved quality of the reproductions; extra standards where the time intervals were too long; revision of the illustrations and descriptions in the section on maturity indicators; augmentation of the text; the appending of the Bayley and Pinneau tables for predicting adult height.

Other additions involve discussions under the following headings: The genetically determined character and sequence of developmental process; the concept of skeletal age; the close correspondence in skeletal status of the right and left hand; the accuracy of skeletal assessments; the skeletal age of individual bones and epiphyses. In the appendix there are, besides the prediction tables, the radiographs of six skeletal areas of a girl at the time of her menarche, and a device for increasing the safety of hand-radiography.

The overall effect of the supplementary material is to validate and broaden the concept of skeletal age, to strengthen the arguments in favor of using the radiograph of the left hand and wrist instead of depending on radiographs of several areas, or even of both hands, and to answer with appropriate tables, graphs and explanations, some of the questions which have been raised by other workers concerning the precision of skeletal age assessment.

Everyone has become more aware since 1950, of the grave dangers of excess radiation from whatever source, including medical radiography. By establishing the adequacy of one x-ray of the hand and wrist for the clinical purposes of reading skeletal age, by providing superior photographic standards together with lucid instructions for their use, and by offering a blueprint for a safety device, the authors have forged a clinical tool of great potential value.

The present reviewer, who welcomed the first edition as "an important step toward integrating concepts of growth and development into the practice of clinical medicine," is glad to hail the second edition as a further step in the same direction. This is a step which physicians and radiologists dealing with children and adolescents are increasingly ready to recognize.

LEONA M. BAYER, M.D.

AN ATLAS OF SURGERY—F. Wilson Harlow, M.B., B.S. (Durham), F.R.C.S. (Eng.); Fellow of the International College of Surgeons; Associate Member British Association of Urological Surgeons (Home and Overseas); Consultant Surgeon South West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board and to H. M. Central Prison, Parkhurst and H. M. Prison, Camp Hill; with a foreword by Sir Cecil Wakeley, Bt., K.B.E., C.B., LL.D., D.Sc., F.R.C.S., Fellow of King's College, London; Past President Royal College of Surgeons of England; Consulting Surgeon to King's College Hospital Belgrave Hospital for Children, and the Royal Navy. Grune & Stratton, Inc., 381 Fourth Avenue, New York 16, N. Y., 1959. 363 pages, $8.50.

This is a very simple pictorial review of many surgical problems. It is written on a very simple level. The book is not suitable for either medical students, general practitioners or specialists. It is designed primarily for nurses and will give nurses a bird's eye view of the general concepts behind operations and diagnostic surgical procedures throughout the body.

It is a pictorial aid to memory of common and important surgical facts for nurses, orderlies and paramedical personnel, not for students or physicians.

The main virtue of the book is that it is beautifully illustrated and there is very little that needs to be read in its contained pages.

It is not recommended for physicians, but is recommended for paramedical personnel and nurses.

VICTOR RICHARDS, M.D.

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OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY—J. Robert Willson, M.D., Professor and Head of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology; Clayton T. Beecham, M.D., Clinical Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology; Isador Forman, M.D., Clinical Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology; and Elsie Reid Carrington, M.D., Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology;; all from Temple University School of Medicine and Temple University Medical Center, Philadelphia. The C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, 1958. 605 pages, with 267 illustrations, $10.75.

Dr. Willson and his associates have attempted the logical but difficult task of combining obstetrics and gynecology in one volume. In large measure he has succeeded in arranging the material in a logical sequence. His theme has been to tell an integrated story, starting at birth and continuing through puberty, maturity, the menopause and senescence. Occasionally the sequence is awkward—e.g., Chapter 39 describes pelvic infection, including puerperal infection, gonorrhea and tuberculosis, and this is followed by Chapter 40 on the subject of the puerperium. The chapter on malignant lesions of the cervix is followed by a consideration of benign cervical lesions.

The material has been well chosen to eliminate wordy descriptions of rare conditions, theories and little used procedures. The attempt is made to emphasize diagnosis and treatment. Techniques of operations are not described. The descriptions are concise and to the point and the point of view expressed is generally sound and conservative. As a matter of fact at times it seems that the consideration given a particular subject is really too scanty, even for medical students. For example, the description of carcinoma of the vulva is confined to one page.

It is my belief that Dr. Willson's book would be suitable for medical students but that it would have to be supplemented in many areas by more detailed elaboration.

Included in the 51 chapters and 580 pages are chapters on life periods of the human female; the periodic health examination, infertility, pediatric gynecology and clinical uses of the sex hormones in gynecology as well as chapters on the usual divisions of the subject material.

Dr. Willson's book represents a real achievement in bringing the two subjects together in a logical manner.

DANIEL G. MORTON, M.D.